President: Mr H. Hooper, Gracefield Road, Brown Hill.
Hon. Secretary: Mr P. Fry, 19 Stawell Street, Ballarat.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs E. Bedggood, 809 Barkly Street, Mt Pleasant.

EXCURSION: June 9th, 1974. BASALT AREA.
Depart from Crockers store in Armstrong Street at 1.00 p.m., not at the usual time of 1.30. Proceed through Newlyn and Mt Prospect on the Daylesford road. Pass the Swiss Mountain Hotel (on left) and take the gravel road left, just after the 30 mile post. Travel about three miles to sharp corner. Members will park cars here and walk about 3/4 mile down a small gorge cut into the basalt flow, over the flats of the Deep Creek to the south-western edge of the Basalt-Werona bushland. There should be plenty of interest for all members in this area. After an inspection of this area, members will travel along an attractive tree-lined lane towards Kooroocheang. There are beautiful specimens of Eucalypts in the area; along the road, in paddocks and along the creek. If time permits, a visit will be made to the Werona bushland. Return to Ballarat via Kooroocheang, Smeaton and Creswick. Stout footwear will be required.

TONIGHT: Mr Edgar Whitbourn, a former President of the Bird Observers Club, has travelled from Melbourne to talk to us tonight. His topic will be 'A Nature Ramble Around Victoria'.

CLUB FEES: At our last meeting a motion was passed that our fees be increased. The new subscriptions, which are now payable, are:-
Adult - $1.50; Joint - $2.00; Junior - 50c.

CANADIAN BUSHLAND: This is an area of about 1,000 acres, of which 550 is under pines. In March of this year it was learned that about 300 acres of the remaining bushland was being actively sought for an industrial site to serve the proposed Warrenheip housing estate. This Club prepared a protest and submitted it to the appropriate authorities. When it was learned in May that a decision was soon expected, a press statement concerning our objections was made and a more detailed protest, covering the natural history of the area and its public usage was submitted on behalf of our Club.

MAY MEETING: Mr Roger Cowley gave a very interesting talk on the Land Conservation Council and its activities. We were told that the 'Ballarat Study Area' will probably be one of the last areas investigated by the Council, possibly in two or three years time. The Ballarat area will consist of the shires of Ararat, Lexton, Ripon, Ballarat, Creswick, Bungaree, Buninyong, Leigh and Grenville.

MAY EXCURSION - BOLWARRAH AREA: Members explored the pine plantation alongside the Moorabool Reservoir, listing the various plants and birds

they discovered. Fungi were very common, and many species were found. About half of the 40 or so plants listed were native to the area. About a dozen birds were listed, including red-browed finch, golden whistler, crimson rosella, yellow robin and white-throated tree-creeper. After leaving the pines, members travelled a few miles towards Spargo Creek and stopped in the forest where an interesting variety of plants and some more fungi were found.

LAKE WENDOUREE: The Club Committee has agreed to present a submission to the City Council requesting the banning of speed-boats on Lake Wendouree. A copy of the submission will be available for members to inspect tonight.

LEAVING: Mr and Mrs Chris Spiker will be leaving very shortly to live in Alice Springs, where Mr Spiker has accepted a position with the Northern Territory Reserves Board. We thank Chris and Sue for their participation in Club affairs and trust they will enjoy life in the Centre.

EASTER HOLIDAY: Mr Fry and family spent Easter relaxing on a Murray River houseboat, cruising upstream to beyond Red Cliffs and down to Wentworth. The Darling River was in flood and the Murray at Mildura 12 feet above normal. Mr Fry listed 56 species of birds, including Yellow-billed Spoonbills which were still nesting, and Nankeen Night-Herons. Not one Murray Valley mosquito was seen or heard.

LETTER: Following her receipt of our recently printed syllabus and newsletter, Miss Herbert has written to Mr Fry congratulating the Club on its activities and wishing 'good hunting' to all who go afield.

NEXT MONTH: Our July meeting will be an informal one at which we will spend some time studying and identifying fungi. In the recent questionnaire, several members indicated they would like to have some 'study meetings' and so we hope this will be a success. We hope to have quite a few specimens available, and members are asked to bring any they can find. We had hoped to combine our excursion on July 7th with the Creswick Field Naturalists Club, but this is no longer possible. More details of the excursion will be available at the July meeting.

CAMERA ADVICE: Mrs Bedggood has written some notes for the benefit of those intending nature photography. "I am often asked by folk interested in buying a camera and with the intention of perhaps taking 'close-up' photography later - What is the best type of camera to purchase? My advice is to obtain a single lens reflex camera, which is one with detachable lenses. The standard 50-55mm lens sold with the camera can then be taken off the body and replaced with a lens of, say 135mm which will enlarge distant subjects, or a wide-angle lens which will give a wider field of view. The latter is excellent for indoor and architectural photography. Getting in close to small subjects can be done by removing the standard lens and inserting tubes behind the lens or by placing an auxillary lens in front of the camera lens. Of course, this type of camera is dear in the first instance, but is definitely the only camera capable of taking close-up photography." We thank Mrs.